

REMARKS

Applicants request favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 1, 4, 6-16, 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 29, 31, 32, and 34 are pending in the present application, with Claims 1 and 29 being independent. Claims 2, 3, 5, 17, 19, 21, 23, 25, 27, 28, 30, 33, and 35-38 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 6-12, 14, 26 and 34 stand withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1, 4, 13, 16, 18, 20, 24, 29, and 32 have been amended. Applicants submit that support for these amendments can be found in the original disclosure, and therefore no new matter has been added.

Claims 1-5, 13, 15-25, 27-29, 31-33, and 35-38 have been objected to.

Applicants have amended the claims in view of the Examiner's comments. Regarding the plural "light beam intersecting planes," the Examiner's attention is directed, for example, to S1-S8 in Fig. 3 and described at least at page 21, line 23 - page 22, line 4. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of the objections are requested.

Claims 1-5, 13, 15-25, 27-29, 31-33 and 35-38 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. With respect to the Examiner's comment regarding the displayed image being a "synthesized" image and regarding the terms "switchover" and "synchronization," Applicants have amended the claims in view of the Examiner's comments. Regarding the Examiner's comments about a "plurality" of transmitting sections and light shielding sections, Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's position. The Examiner is

apparently reading the term “section” to mean just one small area of an optical modulator. However, as used in the specification, it is clear that the term light transmitting section collectively refers to plural light transmitting areas of an optical modulator, and similarly the term light shielding section collectively refers to plural light shielding areas of the optical modulator. *See, e.g.*, page 18, lines 18-25. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the claim language already describes plural light transmitting or light shielding portions. Applicants submit that, in view of the claim amendments and the foregoing remarks, the claims describe subject matter that is clearly enabled. Favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

Claims 1-5, 13, 15-25, 27-28, 29, 31-33 and 35-38 are provisionally rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over Claims 1-16, and 17-22 of copending Application No. 09/772,989 in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,663,831 (Mashitani, et al.). Applicants note that this is only a provisional rejection. Moreover, Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for the following reasons.

As recited in independent Claim 1, the present invention includes the feature of controlling an apparatus to alternately switch between display of a first synthesized parallax image and display of a second synthesized parallax image having horizontal stripe images arranged in an order that is different from the first image, and controlling the apparatus to change the position of light transmitting and light shielding sections of an optical modulator with a timing synchronized to the switch between display of the first and second synthesized parallax images. The present invention as recited in independent Claim

29 recites a similar feature. Due to this feature, each parallax image observed by an observer is displayed using all of the pixels of the image display device, thereby enhancing quality.

Applicants submit that Mashitani, et al. fails to disclose or suggest at least the above-noted features. In particular, neither that patent nor the reference to Morishima is understood to disclose that a light transmitting section is movable and a displayed parallax image is changed in synchronization with a change in position of the light transmitting section. Accordingly, in Morishima only half of the pixels of the image display element are used to display each parallax image, and in Mashitani, et al. there is a dark portion on which the image is not observed. Accordingly, Applicants submit that even if the claims of the co-pending application are considered in view of the secondary citations, the above-mentioned features of Claims 1 and 29 would not have been obvious. Therefore, favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration, withdrawal of the objections and rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Office Action, and an early Notice of Allowance are requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

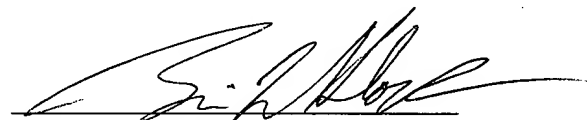
In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is

directed to the document listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. A copy the listed document is enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the cited information be considered by the Examiner and that an annotated copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be returned with the next official communication indicating that such information has been considered.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our Washington, D.C. office by telephone at (202) 530-1010. All correspondence should be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian L. Klock", written over a horizontal line.

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